

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 EB-07 AID-05 /075 W

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R 061531Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2723

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS YO

SUBJECT: NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN YUGOSLAV MAY 9 PARADE IS  
MAINLY SOVIET

1. FOR THE LAST TWO WEEKS AT CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE TO THE CITIZENS OF BELGRADE THE YUGOSLAV PEOPLES ARMY (JNA) HAS BEEN PRACTICING FOR THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY VICTORY PARADE WHICH WILL BE HELD ON MAY 9. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE YUGOSLAVS, WHO NORMALLY ESCHEW MILITARY PARADES, WILL ROLL OUT AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF NEWLY-ACQUIRED MODERN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

2. WESTERN MILITARY ATTACHES WHO OBSERVED THE PRACTICE SESSIONS CONFIRM THAT MANY NEW ITEMS OF MILITARY HARDWARE NOT SEEN HERE BEFORE WILL BE IN THE PARADE. THE NEW EQUIPMENT IS MAINLY SOVIET BUT THERE WILL ALSO BE EUROPEAN AND DOMESTICALLY-PRODUCED ITEMS.

3. THE FOLLOWING NEW SOVIET EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN SEEN AT PRACTICE SESSIONS THUS FAR: MISSILES: SA3 (SEMI-FIXED SURFACE TO AIR), SA6 (MOBILE SURFACE TO AIR), SA7 (HAND-HELD ANTI-AIRCRAFT), AND  
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THE TRUCK MOUNTED FROG7 TACTICAL SURFACE TO SURFACE MISSILE;

KA-25 "HORMONE" ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE HELICOPTERS; KRAZ-225B HEAVY TRUCKS; ATS (MOD 1972) ARTILLERY PRIME MOVER TRACKED VEHICLES.

4. OF EUROPEAN ITEMS SEEN THUS FAR THERE ARE QUANTITIES OF NEW FIAT JEEPS (NOT ZASTAVAS LOCALLY MADE UNDER LICENSE TO FIAT) AND LIGHT AUSTRIAN PINZGAUER TRUCKS.

5. AMONG DOMESTIC ITEMS ARE THE YUGOSLAV-ROMANIAN "JUROM" JET FIGHTER WHICH INCORPORATES TWO ROLLS ROYCE ENGINE(S), A 32-ROUND ROCKET LAUNCHER MOUNTED ON A YUGOSLAV MADE FAP TRUCK AND AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER UTILIZING A FRENCH (ASU5) ENGINE AND GUN. DETAILS ON NEW EQUIPMENT ARE BEING REPORTED DOD CHANNELS.

6. COMMENT: THE JNA THUS APPEARS TO HAVE ACQUIRED SOME OF THE ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT IT HAS DISCUSSED WITH THE US AND OTHER SUPPLIERS IN RECENT YEARS. THAT THE MORE SOPHISTICATED ITEMS COME FROM THE SOVIET UNION WILL BE NOTED BY THE WESTERN PRESS AND VERY LIKELY LEAD TO RENEWAL OF SPECULATION OVER INCREASED SOVIET ROLE HERE. THESE ACQUISITIONS COULD ALSO BE SEEN AS A YUGOSLAV BENDING TO REALITIES -- THE SOVIETS WILL SELL THEM THIS GENERATION OF ARMAMENTS WHILE WESTERN (AND PARTICULARLY NATO) COUNTRIES ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR A POLICY ON ARMS SALES TO YUGOSLAVIA. GIVEN THE YUGOSLAV STRESS ON MAINTAINING A CREDIBLE DETERRENT TO POTENTIAL AGGRESSION OR INTIMIDATION FROM WHEREVER, THEY POSSIBLY FEEL THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN TO WHERE THEY KNOW THEY CAN GET WHAT THEY WANT.

7. IN OUR VIEW THE CONTINUING YUGOSLAV SUSPICIONS OF THE SOVIETS AND THEIR INTENTIONS TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA SHOULD DISSUADE US FROM DRAWING ANY HASTY OR EXTREME CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE MEANING OF THESE ACQUISITIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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